

CHAPTER 11: PATHS TO MODERNIZATION

CHAPTER:-11TH

SOURCES

- **Official Record**
- **Dynastic history**
- **Scholarly writings**
- **Popular literature**
- **Religious Literature**

Introduction:

Different societies have evolved their distinctive modernities. The Japanese and Chinese cases are very instructive in this regard. Japan succeeded in remaining free of colonial control and achieved fairly rapid economic and industrial progress throughout the twentieth century. The Chinese resisted colonial exploitation and their own bureaucratic landed elite through a combination of peasant rebellion, reform and revolution. Both these countries are situated in far East Asia, yet, they present a marked physical contrast.

JAPAN

Physical Features

- **Japan** is a string of islands, the four largest being Honshu, Kyushu, Shikoku and Hokkaido.
- There is no major river system.
- More than 50 per cent of the land area of the main islands is mountainous and Japan is situated in a very active earthquake zone.
- There are various homogenous ethnic groups, like there are a small Ainu minority and Koreans who were forcibly brought as labour when Korea was a Japanese colony.
- Language spoken is mostly Japanese.
- Japan lacks a tradition of animal rearing.
- Rice is the staple crop and fish the major source of protein.
- Raw fish (sashimi or sushi) has now become a widely popular dish around the world as it is considered very healthy.